

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image output apparatus for outputting an image using image data ~~indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image,~~ the image output apparatus comprising:

a picture quality adjusting unit that ~~performs a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image~~ adjusts lightness of the whole image to a degree; and

an outputting unit that outputs the image adjusted by the picture quality adjusting unit, wherein the picture quality adjusting unit makes the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit is ~~configured to perform the picture quality adjustment~~ adjusts the lightness of the whole image to the degree without the lightness adjustment if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein

the light metering mode information ~~represents~~ shows one of a plurality of metering modes including averaged metering, center-weighted metering, spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering, and

~~the information indicating that the light metering mode measures~~ measuring the part of the image ~~is information indicating~~ includes spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein

the picture quality adjusting unit ~~is configured to provide~~ includes a user interface for allowing a user to adjust the degree of lightness adjustment to adjust the lightness if the light metering mode information ~~indicates~~ shows the center-weighted metering.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image output method of outputting an image using image data ~~indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image,~~ the image output method comprising:

~~performing a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image~~ adjusting lightness of the whole image to a degree; and

outputting the image that has been adjusted by the picture quality lightness adjustment; and

making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, the computer program causing a computer to output an image using image data ~~indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, the image data being associated with light metering mode information, the light metering mode information showing a light metering mode used for photographing of the image,~~ the computer program comprising instructions for causing the computer to perform functions of:

~~performing a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being such that a degree of an adjustment of lightness of a whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures a part of the image~~ adjusting lightness of the whole image to a degree; and

outputting the image that has been adjusted by the picture quality lightness adjustment; and

making the degree less when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image than when the light metering mode information shows other than the light metering mode measuring a part of the image.

Claim 21 (New): The image output apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein the picture quality adjusting unit includes:

a degree determining unit that determines the degree according to a difference between reflectivity of the whole image and a prescribed reference value; and

a degree reducing unit that reduces the determined degree to adjust the lightness when the light metering mode information shows a light metering mode measuring a part of the image.